SECRET INVASION

Asgard is under attack.

The Skrulls, a race of shape-shifting aliens, have launched a secret invasion to take the planet Earth for themselves. The infiltration has already occurred…next comes the attack.

But Earth is also home now to the gods of the Norse pantheon. Thor, their leader, has built them a new shining city outside the town of Broxton, Oklahoma. The Skrulls know that the gods are not to be trifled with, and hope to intimidate them.

Bound with the beaten, wracked body of Beta Ray Bill--an alien ally of Asgard and the bearer of a hammer of power identical to Thor's--they communicated the words: Leave Earth or be destroyed. They took Bill's hammer, Stormbreaker, and threw him down to Earth, powerless, to die.

Meanwhile, in Broxton, Dr. Don Blake, the mortal host of the mighty Thor, was about to deliver a young woman's first baby when Bill's broken body crashed to Earth. Preparing to defend against the Skrull attack, Thor called forth storms to conceal Broxton from the invaders. Then, loaning Thor's own hammer to Beta Ray Bill, Blake restored Bill to his fullest power, but trapped himself in his mortal form. The Asgardians steeled themselves to fight…led by the noble prince Balder and Beta Ray Bill in Thor's place. Blake returned to Broxton to deliver the baby, just as the Skrull armada launched its attack…

SECRET INVASION: THOR PART TWO

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IT SOUNDED LIKE NEVER-ENDING THUNDER.
AND IT SOUNDED LIKE IT HAD ROLLED IN FROM HELL ITSELF.
THE SKRULLS HAD COME FROM LIGHT YEARS AWAY TO WIPE ASGARD FROM HUMAN MEMORY...
AND THESE WARRIORS WERE NO ORDINARY SKRULLS.
A RACE OF SHAPE-SHIFTERS THAT HAVE LEARNED TO SHIFT THEIR FORM AT ITS BASE GENETIC LEVEL.
THESE SKRULLS HAD EVOLVED THEMSELVES FOR THIS WAR.
THEY WEREN'T EVEN CALLED "SKRULL" AMONGST THEIR OWN KIND.
THEY WERE SOMETHING NEW. THE NEAREST TRANSLATION WOULD BE "GODKILLERS."
BUT "ASGARDIAN" MEANS "ASGARDIAN" IN ANY LANGUAGE...
AND THAT MEANT THEY WOULD NOT FALL EASILY, REGARDLESS OF THE DISADVANTAGES THE SKRULLS MIGHT HAVE THEM AT.

THERE WOULD BE ONLY ONE DISADVANTAGE TO WHICH THE ASGARDIANS MIGHT ADMIT:
RATHER THAN BE LED INTO THIS FIGHT BY THE MIGHTY THOR...
AT LAST, BRAVE BALDER! THE BATTLE HAS ARRIVED!
AYE, BETA RAY BILL. AYE.
...THE ROLE FELL TO HIS TWO STEWARDS.
READY TO FIGHT?
READY TO FIGHT. READY TO DIE.
SHOW THEM THE SAME MERCY THEY SHOWED ME!
SHOW THEM COMPASSION AT THE ENDS OF YOUR BLADES!
FOR ASGARD!

AS LIVES ARE LOST IN ASGARD, A NEW ONE IS ON ITS WAY IN NEARBY BROXTON.
YOU'RE DOING GREAT, MARIE--YOU'RE DOING GREAT--
AIRRRRRRRHHHH!!!
THE MIGHTY THOR, IN HIS MORTAL GUISE, IS SEEING TO THAT.
ASGARD WOULD HAVE TO WAIT...
THERE YOU GO. BREATHE THROUGH IT. BREATHE THROUGH IT...
OKAY OKAY OKAY OKAY.
=PPPPPHHHHTTTT=
OKAY.
NOT LONG NOW, MARIE. I PROMISE.
I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH MORE OF THIS I CAN TAKE.
YOU'D BE AMAZED.
EVEN IF WE WERE AT A HOSPITAL, YOU'RE DILATED TOO FAR FOR ANY DRUGS NOW.
CRAP.
IT'S OKAY.
YOU'RE A FIGHTER. I CAN TELL.
BELIEVE ME--I KNOW FIGHTERS WHEN I SEE THEM.

AH-- PARDON ME, MA'AM. HOLD THAT THOUGHT.
SO THAT'S IT, BOYS--WE GOTTA GO.
YEAH.
EXCUSE ME. FELLAS?
DID I OVERHEAR YOU GUYS CORRECTLY? YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT GOING BACK OUT IN THE STORMS?
I REALLY THINK YOU GUYS SHOULD STAY PUT. IT'S PRETTY DANGEROUS OUT THERE...
DOC, WE SURE APPRECIATE YOU WORRYIN' ABOUT OUR WELL-BEING. BUT OUR...FRIENDS... OUT THERE...SEEM TO BE NEEDING A FIRE DEPARTMENT.
CARL HERE SEEN IT HIMSELF--THAT BIG FLOATIN' CITY OF THEIRS IS ON FIRE AND THE RAIN AIN'T PUTTIN' IT OUT.
AND WE MIGHT NOT BE ACTUAL FIREMEN BUT WE'RE TRAINED AND WE VOLUNTEERED. HELPIN' NEIGHBORS IS OUR JOB.
AND THEM FLOATIN' BOYS MAYBE MIGHT NOT QUITE BE HUMAN, BUT THEY'RE MOST DEFINITELY NEIGHBORS.
IF A TORNADO COMES, RECKON WE'LL ALL JUST DIVE IN A DITCH, DOC. 'SCUSE US.
IT FEELS LIKE A MILLENNIUM AGO, BUT ONCE UPON A TIME, THOR'S FATHER ODIN LINKED THE PETULANT THUNDER GOD WITH THE LIFE OF A MORTAL MAN, SO HE COULD REMAIN CONNECTED TO HIS HUMANITY.
IN SPITE OF THE YEARS THAT HAVE PASSED, EVERY NOW AND AGAIN, HUMANITY STILL FINDS A WAY TO SURPRISE AND DELIGHT HIM.

IN ASGARD, HOWEVER...
...THE NATURE OF WAR REMAINS, AS EVER, UNCHANGED.
BRUTAL, VICIOUS, AND ULTIMATELY RELENTLESS.
THE SHAPE-SHIFTERS TOOK THEIR ADVANTAGES AS THEY FOUND THEM.
THE ASGARDIANS MADE THEIR OWN ADVANTAGES, MATCHING SURPRISE WITH SAVAGERY.

THUS WAS LIFE. THUS WAS WAR.
THOSE FIRES AREN'T HELPING MUCH.
INDEED, BRAVE BALDER.
LET'S SEE WHAT WE CAN DO ABOUT THAT...
CLOUDS'RE GETTIN' WORSE!
MAYBE THEY'LL DO OUR JOB FOR US...

LEAN INTO IT, BOYS!
COME NOW, CRUMS!
GIVE THEM NO QUARTER!
GRGRAHH
GRGRAHH
GOTTA GET--
-NNGE--GOTTA GET IT CLOSER, BOYS.
GOTTA GET UP ON THE LADDER.
LEMME CUT THE WATER--

A SUPER-SKRULL.
GENETICALLY MODIFIED TO MIMIC THE POWERS OF FOUR OF EARTH'S MOST EPIC TITANS:
THUNDRA, TITANIA, VOLCANA, AND BATTLEAXE.
THAT THESE TITANS WERE ALL FEMALE WAS CLEARLY A MOCKERY OF ASGARD'S PATRIARCHAL ORGANIZATION...
THE HEARTS OF HER AXES WERE FAMILIAR, TOO...
AND THEIR USE REQUIRED FURTHER GENETIC MODIFICATIONS STILL.
BETA RAY BILL RECOGNIZED THEM BY HOW HE FELT IN THEIR PRESENCE:
STORMBREAKER.
BILL'S OWN HAMMER, MUTILATED AND TRANSFORMED BY SKRULL SUPER-SCIENCE, ITS USE MADE POSSIBLE BY PROFOUND GENETIC PERVERSIONS.
AND SO THOR'S MJOLNIR AND BILL'S OWN STORMBREAKER, EQUAL WEAPONS CRAFTED IN THE SAME CELESTIAL FORGE, WOULD FACE ONE ANOTHER ACROSS THE BATTLEFIELD.
YOU'VE DESTROYED MY HAMMER, MONSTER.

HE LOVES YOU.
BEHIND ME, BROTHERS!
FOR THE LOVE OF ALL THINGS HOLY, GET BEHIND MY HAMMER!
HOLD...
ON...
INCOMING!

WHAT'S IT LIKE OUT THERE?
OUR... NEIGHBORS... TO THE WEST...
ABOUT THE STORMS? THE TORNADOS? HAVE THEY HIT YET? HAVE THEY--
EVERYTHING'S STILL FINE, MA'AM. IN FACT--IT'S LIKE THE CLOUDS AREN'T EVEN MOVING.
LOOKS LIKE A STORM, SMELLS LIKE A STORM--BUT THERE'S NO WIND. DEFINITELY THE WEIRDEST THING I EVER SAW.
LADIES AND GENTS, DON'T SEEM LIKE THESE STORMS'RE DOING MUCH OF ANYTHING.
NOT SURE HOW MUCH LONGER CELL SERVICE WILL HAVE THE WARNINGS POSTED, BUT THE STORMS...
FOLKS, THEY AIN'T COMIN'.
YARRRRRNNNNGGGG...!!!

OKAY, MARIE.
THIS IS IT. BABY'S COMING.
OKAYOKAYOKAYOKAY
PUSH, SWEETHEART.
LET'S MEET YOUR KID.
AAAAAAA!
THAT'S IT, MARIE--THAT'S IT--NOW HOLD YOUR BREATH AND PUSH--
ALL THE FOLKS THERE IN THE BASEMENT OF THAT MIDDLE SCHOOL GATHERED AROUND.
IT'S NOT EVERY DAY YOU FIND YOU'RE IN THE PRESENCE OF A GENUINE MIRACLE AND, FOR A MOMENT, THE PEOPLE OF BROXTON ALLOWED THEMSELVES TO BE REMINDED OF THAT VERY THING.
I CAN SEE THE HEAD, MARIE.
YOU CAN SEE MY BABY?

THE FLAMES SMOLDER, BROTHERS--NOW STRIKE!
STRIKE IT DOWN UNTIL IT DIES!
THE HEAD IS OUT, MARIE--I'VE GOT IT IN MY HANDS, SWEETHEART--NOW GIVE ME ONE MORE PUSH--
ARRRRR--
ONE MORE GOOD PUSH SHOULD DO IT--
CRACK!
THAT'S IT! THERE'S THE SHOULDERS, MARIE--
HERE WE GO--

FALL!
FALL!
FALL!
NO.

IT TOSSED BETA RAY BILL LIKE A CHILD DONE WITH A TOY.
AFTER IT!
IT MUST NOT REACH BROXTON!
BILL, CLINGING TO CONSCIOUSNESS, WAS HELPLESS BEFORE THE BEAST'S CAPRICIOUS WHIMS.
BUT HE WAS A WARRIOR. AND HE WOULD FIGHT UNTIL STOPPED OR SLAUGHTERED.
HE DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO RELENT AND WOULD BE DAMNED IF HE LEARNED NOW.
THE SUPER-SKRULL SCREAMED ITS BATTLE CRY, AND IT ECHOED ACROSS THE VAST EXPANSE OF THE DESERT.
BROXTON WOULD BE NEXT. OF THIS THERE WAS NO DOUBT.